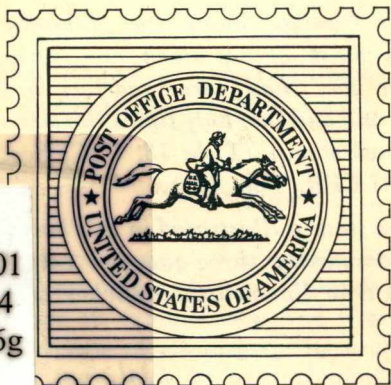


A GUIDE FOR THE



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SELECTION OF UNITED STATES COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS



By law, any reproduction of a United States Postage Stamp for philatelic purposes must be in black and white and either less than three-quarters or more than one and one-half times the size of the original stamp (Title 18, USC, Sec. 504; and 31 CFR., Part 400).

The stamps illustrated in this booklet are approximately three-quarters actual size. Their true dimensions, in inches, are given.



Office of the Postmaster General
Washington 25, D. C.

August 31, 1961

The postage stamps of a nation are a picture gallery of its glories. They depict in miniature its famous men and women, the great events of its history, its organizations, its industries, its natural wonders.

Stamp collecting, consequently, has distinct educational values. No one can pursue this hobby intelligently without developing a greater knowledge of his national heritage.

This publication, prepared by the Stamp Advisory Committee of the Post Office Department, defines the policy of the Department's stamp program.

ARTHUR E. SUMMERFIELD,
Postmaster General

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**THE CITIZEN'S STAMP ADVISORY
COMMITTEE OF THE
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**



A seven-member citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee comprising prominent philatelists, nationally known designers, and a representative of the United States Information Agency, was established on March 26, 1957, to advise the Post Office Department on matters relating to the subject matter, design, production, and issuance of postage stamps with the most appropriate and appealing themes. Its members are:

•

FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, Jr.
Curator, Division of
Philately and Postal
History, Smithsonian
Institution

•

H. L. LINDQUIST
Chairman of the Na-
tional Federation of
Stamp Clubs.

•

WILLIAM H. BUCKLEY
Art Directors Club of
New York.

•

ERVINE METZL
Society of Illustrators

•

ARNOLD J. COPELAND
The Westport Artists

•

ABBOTT WASHBURN
Deputy Director, United
States Information
Agency

•

SOL GLASS
President, Bureau Is-
sues Association

The Post Office Department liaison with the Committee is L. Rohe Walter, Special Assistant to the Postmaster General.

Two-Thirds of the World's Mail

The American people send and receive an astonishing and ever-growing volume of mail, which now totals over 61 billion pieces a year, including about a billion parcels.

In doing so, they annually use approximately 24 billion adhesive postage stamps, 2½ billion stamped envelopes, 3 billion postal cards, and 28 million air mail sheets. This postage costs over \$1 billion.

About \$1¼ billion is also now spent during the year for permit mail where the postage payment is indicated by the printing of an indicia.

At the present time the United States Post Office Department is handling nearly two-thirds of the world's mail.

United States Mail Volume Increases Year by Year

<i>Year</i>	<i>Mail Volume Per Capita</i>
1886	60 pieces
1956	336 pieces

In this period while U. S. population increased about threefold, mail volume increased almost twice as fast, or sixfold. And the present volume of mail is expected to double in the next 25 years.

Adhesive Postage Stamps

Adhesive postage stamps were adopted by the United States in 1847 for the prepayment of postage on mail matter.

Under the law, the Postmaster General has authority to revise the designs of stamps and to issue special stamps.

United States adhesive postage stamps may be classified in five groups:

1. *Regular Stamps*, ranging in denomination from one-half cent to five dollars, are kept in constant supply in the Nation's post offices and redesigned at intervals. Portraits of former Presidents and other prominent persons in American history and national shrines are traditionally the subjects of these stamps. The 18 regular stamps now in use were issued in 1954-56.



4-cent Abraham Lincoln
regular stamp issued
November 19, 1954.
0.75×0.87 inches.

2. *Memorial Stamps* are infrequently issued to honor an American official who dies in office.



2-cent Harding Memorial
stamp issued September 1,
1923. 0.75×0.87 inches.

3. *Air Mail Stamps*, first issued in 1918, are used to prepay domestic and international air mail postage. The history of aviation and air mail developments are usually pictured on these stamps.



25¢ Air Mail Stamp issued November 1, 1946. 0.84×1.44 inches.

4. *Special Stamps* are used only to prepay fees for special services other than regular or air mail postage.



30¢ Special Delivery Stamp issued September 3, 1957. 0.84×1.44 inches.

5. *Commemorative Stamps* were first issued on the occasion of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Since then, nearly every event of importance in which the Government has participated by Act of Congress, including statehood anniversaries, has been recognized by commemorative postage stamps. In addition, many stamps have been issued to commemorate other important events and persons associated with the development and ideals of the Nation.

“Champions of Liberty” commemorative stamps, printed in three colors, are issued to honor foreign leaders and fighters for liberty throughout the world. The first stamp in this new series honors the late President of the Philippines, Ramon Magsaysay.

Since 1893, the United States has issued 369 commemorative stamps, through August 31, 1957.



8-cent “Champion of Liberty” Magsaysay stamp, issued August 31, 1957. 1.11×1.36 inches.

3-cent Atoms For Peace commemorative stamp, issued July 28, 1955. 0.84×1.44 inches.



COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

- From their inception in 1893, commemorative stamps have differed from regular stamps.

The latter are issued for everyday use over indefinite and lengthy periods of time with their designs usually limited to portraits and national shrines.

Commemorative stamps, on the other hand, are currently printed in limited quantities of 120 million or less. They normally remain on sale in the Nation's post offices for a relatively short period of time, usually 6 months to a year, depending on their popularity.

Since commemorative stamps honor a wide variety of individuals and events that are part of the Nation's heritage, the subject matter for their design is practically unlimited.

The Post Office Department now issues approximately a dozen commemorative stamps a year, normally arranged in 50, 70, or 100 stamps to a sheet.

All ideas for the subject matter for these stamps are carefully studied by the Stamp Advisory Committee before its recommendations for the Post Office Department's commemorative stamp program are submitted to the Postmaster General for final approval.

By law, the Postmaster General has the exclusive and final authority to determine which postage stamps shall be issued. Therefore, further legislation is not necessary.

Standards for Commemorative Stamps

As a special service to individuals, organizations and groups who may wish to

submit ideas for a commemorative postage stamp to the Post Office Department, the Stamp Advisory Committee adopted a set of criteria on August 30, 1957—the first ever developed—to govern their issuance.

The seven criteria listed below should be helpful to individuals or groups interested in sponsoring a commemorative stamp. These criteria now serve as the basis for the recommendations on commemorative stamps made by the Stamp Advisory Committee to the Postmaster General.

1. No living person shall be honored by portrayal on any United States postage stamp.
2. No American citizen may be honored by a United States commemorative postage stamp until at least 25 years after death.
3. Commemorative postage stamps honoring individuals preferably will be issued on the anniversaries of their births.
4. Events having widespread national appeal and significance may receive consideration for issuance of commemorative postage stamps.
5. Commemorative postage stamps shall be issued on even date anniversaries, starting with the 50th year and continuing at 50-year intervals.

6. Commemorative postage stamps shall not be issued to honor a fraternal, political or religious organization, a commercial enterprise, or a specific product.
7. Commemorative postage stamps will not be considered appropriate for organizations whose funds are supplied in whole or in part by voluntary contributions. (The use of poster stamps sold by philanthropic organizations to raise funds, as well as postal slogan cancellations, are more useful in arousing public interest.)

Individuals or organizations sponsoring suggestions for commemorative postage stamps meeting the standards outlined above, should present their requests in writing to the Postmaster General, Post Office Department, Washington 25, D. C., preferably 18 months in advance of the proposed date of issuance of the stamp requested. This permits proper consideration by the Stamp Advisory Committee, and sufficient time for design and production if the stamp is approved for issue. Subject matter or proposed designs may accompany requests but the Stamp Advisory Committee reserves the right to approve a design of its own choice. No duplicate presentations should be made to members of the Stamp Advisory Committee.



TYPICAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Samuel Gompers, issued
January 27, 1950. 0.85×0.98
inches.



Women In Armed Services, issued
September 11, 1952. 0.84×1.44
inches.



Soo Locks, issued June 28, 1955.
0.84×1.44 inches.



Lewis and Clark, issued
July 28, 1954. 0.84×1.44
inches.



United States Flag, issued
July 4, 1957. 0.84×1.44
inches.



TYPICAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS



Steel Stamp, issued May 27,
1957. 0.84 x 1.44 inches.



Benjamin Franklin, issued
January 17, 1956. 0.84 x 1.44
inches.



Pronghorn Antelope, issued June 22,
1956. 0.84 x 1.44 inches.

Oklahoma Statehood, issued
June 14, 1957. 0.84 x 1.44
inches.



Booker T. Washington, issued
April 5, 1956. 0.84 x 1.44
inches.

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postage stamps

of the
**UNITED
STATES**
1847-1957

A Publication of the
Post Office Department
Washington 25, D. C.

P. O. D. Publication 9

"Postage Stamps of the United States, 1847-1957"

An approximate 240-page book, "Postage Stamps of the United States, 1847-1957," describing and illustrating United States postage stamps, will be available about February 15, 1958, from the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., in paper cover for \$1.00.

GPO : 1957—O—437487

